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**OFFUTT AFB**

**CONSTRUCT ARMS SUPPORT FACILITY – SGBP-01-0041**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**April 2005**

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**

HEADQUARTERS, 55TH WING (ACC)  
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA

8 December 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR HQ ACC/CEV

129 Andrews St Ste 102  
Langley AFB VA 23665-2769

FROM: 55 CES/CC

106 Peacekeeper Dr Ste 2N3  
Offutt AFB NE 68113-4019

SUBJECT: Construction Waiver to Construct a Combat Arms Support Facility at Offutt's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Landfill 4 Site

1. Request a waiver to construct a combat arms support facility near the Offutt AFB Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) Landfill 4 site. A drawing showing the proposed construction site is at Attachment 1. This facility will be used for classroom training, training simulator area, properly ventilated cleaning area, weapon storage vault, instructor administrative space, and restrooms.
2. Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) contamination has been detected at the Landfill 4 site. The proposed location for the combat arms support facility will be constructed near the contaminant plume. No contact with contaminated soil or groundwater is expected due to the depth of contamination. If, however, contaminated material is encountered during the construction, it will be removed and disposed using project funds. The construction of the combat arms support facility will not impact remediation at this site.
3. We have notified the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency Region VII of our intent to build a combat arms support facility. Neither opposed this construction as long as we follow appropriate regulations if we encounter contamination.
4. Our point of contact for the site is Mr. Philip Cork at (402) 294-7621.

PHILIP E. CORK  
Chief, Environmental Restoration Element

Attachments:

1. Proposed Construction Site Map
2. Map Indicating Extent of Contamination

cc: HQ ACC/CEP  
HQ ACC/CEVR

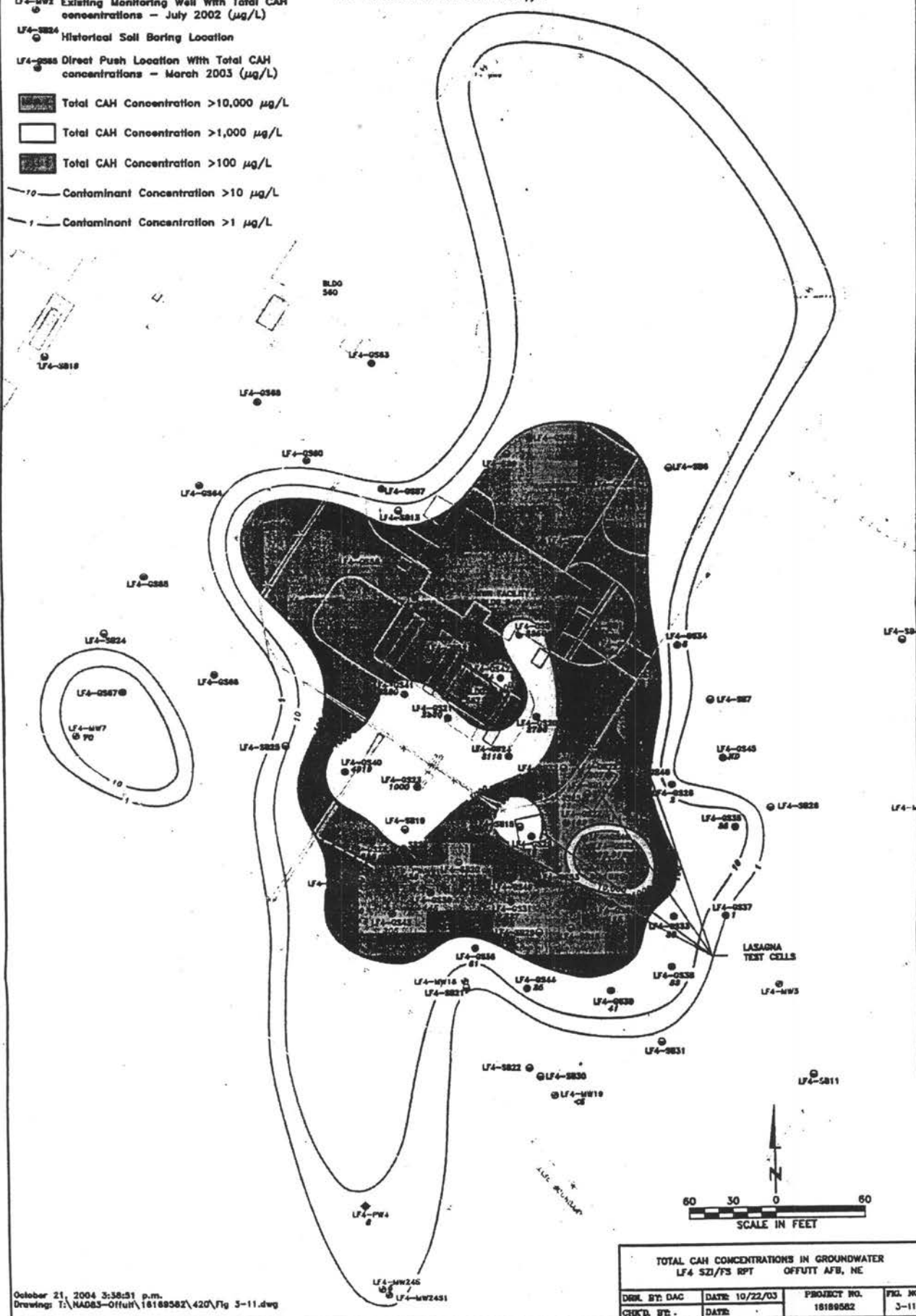
***Global Power for America***

# LEGEND

- LF4-PW3 Existing Containment Well With Total CAH concentrations - April 2003 ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
- LF4-MW2 Existing Monitoring Well With Total CAH concentrations - July 2002 ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
- LF4-SB24 Historical Soil Boring Location
- LF4-GS85 Direct Push Location With Total CAH concentrations - March 2003 ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
- Total CAH Concentration  $>10,000 \mu\text{g/L}$
- Total CAH Concentration  $>1,000 \mu\text{g/L}$
- Total CAH Concentration  $>100 \mu\text{g/L}$
- Contaminant Concentration  $>10 \mu\text{g/L}$
- Contaminant Concentration  $>1 \mu\text{g/L}$

# NOTE

This figure represents a conceptual contaminant distribution model. The actual concentrations between sample locations may vary from the shown interpretation. Many of the contours are approximated, especially in areas where gaps in the data points exist (primarily to the north and southwest of the MWR facility).



October 21, 2004 3:58:51 p.m.  
Drawing: T:\NAD83-Offutt\18189582\420\Fig 3-11.dwg

TOTAL CAH CONCENTRATIONS IN GROUNDWATER			
LF4 SZI/FS RPT OFFUTT AFB, NE			
DESK. BY: DAC	DATE: 10/22/03	PROJECT NO.	FIG. NO.
CHKD. BY: -	DATE: -	18189582	3-11

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **NAME OF ACTION:**

Combat Arms Support Facility, Project No. SGBP-01-0041

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE(S)**

All work necessary to construct a Combat Arms Support Facility to allow for sufficient classroom training, training simulator area, properly ventilated cleaning area, weapons storage vault, instructor administrative space, and restrooms. Construction must comply with ETL 02-11.

#### **Proposed Action**

This proposed action is to construct a Combat Arms Support Facility to provide adequate space to house combat arms training and other small arms training requirements. Construction must comply with Engineering Technical Letter 02-11, Small Arms Range Design and Construction. This is to alleviate the crowded condition that currently exists in the shared facility that is occupied today.

#### **Alternative Action:**

An addition to the current facility was considered, but the existing facility is in very poor condition and is considered substandard. The proposed site is ideal for this project because of its close proximity to the firing range where practical applications of the classroom environment can be realized and/or tested.

#### **No-Action Alternative**

The No-Action Alternative would result in keeping the existing shared facility. The existing range will continue to operate in a very inefficient manner. Storage and personnel will continue to be overcrowded and co-located. Weapon cleaning will continue on classroom tables in a poorly ventilated room. The Simulator will stay in the only classroom and interfere with training classes. The weapon/ammo vault will remain too small to store required weapons, ammo, and pilferable equipment and continue the need to transport materials across the base. Storage/administrative space will remain inadequate.

## **SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### **Proposed Action**

#### **Air**

Construction of the new Combat Arms Support Facility would cause a temporary increase in particulate matter and internal combustion engine exhaust caused by construction activity. Local air quality would not be significantly impacted. Emissions would not exceed air quality

standards. Offutt AFB is in an area of attainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards and a conformity determination is not required.

#### Water

There have been releases documented close to the site. The proposed site is located near, but not directly over a plume of contaminated groundwater. The plume has been identified as part of Offutt's Environmental Restoration Program (ERP). Due to the proximity of the proposed construction location to an ERP site, a construction waiver has been submitted. There is no current evidence that the plume of contamination has migrated to the proposed construction site. Contaminated groundwater (if encountered during de-watering) may be discharged to the storm sewer with an appropriate discharge permit from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), or to the sanitary sewer with concurrence from the City of Omaha, depending on concentration levels. Overall, there would be a negligible effect on water quality going into the sanitary or storm sewer systems for Offutt AFB.

#### Noise

Additional noise will be generated during construction; however, given the limited duration and localized nature, the increase in cumulative noise for the base is negligible.

#### Soil

There have been releases documented close to the site. A construction waiver has been submitted. Construction activities at the proposed site could expose soil to possible erosion. The contractor will have to have and abide by a Construction Site Storm Water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. With NDEQ approval, any contaminated soil could receive an Oxygen Release Compound, and be placed back in the ground by the contractor. This compound would enhance the ability of naturally occurring bacteria to break down any petroleum in the ground. Without NDEQ permission to replace the soil on site; it would be necessary to dispose of the soil based on test results.

#### Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste

Construction activities would cause a short-term generation of solid waste, construction debris, and hazardous materials such as paints and adhesives. Those would be disposed of in accordance with Offutt's Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management Plans.

#### Socioeconomics

There are no socioeconomics or social justice issues.

#### Wetlands

The Corps of Engineers has determined that there are no jurisdictional wetlands within the boundary fence for Offutt AFB.

No Action Alternative

Air/Water/Noise/Soil

There would be no effect to the air if the No-Action Alternative were selected. Also, there would be no increase in the cumulative noise of Offutt AFB. There also would be no effect to the soil and water.

Solid waste and hazardous waste would remain the same as today's levels.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public was offered an opportunity to comment on this EA and the unsigned FONSI. This public comment ran from 1 June 2005 to 27 June 2005. Public comments were not received.

## **CONCLUSION**

I have concluded that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse impact of a long-term nature to the quality of the human or natural environment. A Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate. Therefore, no Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared. This analysis fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, The President's Council on Environmental Quality, and 32 CFR 989.



CURTISS R. PETREK, Colonel, USAF  
Vice Commander, 55th Wing

13 Jul 05

Date

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**ACRONYMS**

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<b>ACCS</b>	<b>Airborne Command and Control Squadron</b>
<b>AICUZ</b>	<b>Air Installation Compatible Use Zone</b>
<b>AF</b>	<b>Air Force</b>
<b>AFI</b>	<b>Air Force Instruction</b>
<b>AQCR</b>	<b>Air Quality Control Region</b>
<b>CEQ</b>	<b>Council on Environmental Quality</b>
<b>CFR</b>	<b>Code of Federal Regulation</b>
<b>CO</b>	<b>Carbon Monoxide</b>
<b>DBA</b>	<b>Decibels on an A-Weighted Scale</b>
<b>DRMO</b>	<b>Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office</b>
<b>EA</b>	<b>Environmental Assessment</b>
<b>ERP</b>	<b>Environmental Restoration Program</b>
<b>EO</b>	<b>Executive Order</b>
<b>FICUN</b>	<b>Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise</b>
<b>IICEP</b>	<b>Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>Meter</b>
<b>L<sub>dn</sub></b>	<b>Day-Night Average Sound Level</b>
<b>MCP</b>	<b>Military Construction Program</b>
<b>NDEQ</b>	<b>Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality</b>
<b>NE</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>
<b>NEPA</b>	<b>National Environmental Policy Act</b>
<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>Nitrogen Dioxide</b>
<b>NPDES</b>	<b>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System</b>
<b>PM-10</b>	<b>Particulate Matter of 10 microns or less in size</b>
<b>POL</b>	<b>Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants</b>
<b>POM</b>	<b>Program Objective Memorandum</b>
<b>POV</b>	<b>Privately-Owned Vehicle</b>
<b>RCRA</b>	<b>Resource Conservation and Recovery Act</b>
<b>SAC</b>	<b>Strategic Air Command</b>
<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b>	<b>Sulfur Dioxide</b>

USC	United States Code
USSTRATCOM	US Strategic Command
WG	Wing

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR PROPOSED ACTION**

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All work necessary to construct a Combat Arms support facility to allow for sufficient classroom training, training simulator area, properly ventilated cleaning area, weapons storage vault, instructor administrative space, and restrooms. Construction must comply with Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 02-11. The current support facility is located in a shared building. The current layout and construction is inadequate for Combat Arms training. The area lacks a separate cleaning room, a simulator room, an adequate weapons storage vault/armory, a 2<sup>nd</sup> classroom, and an adequate office/administrative area. The existing restrooms meet only minimal requirements. All support functions currently are forced into this inadequate space. The lack of a cleaning area requires weapon cleaning to be accomplished on classroom tables, in a poorly ventilated area. The simulator is located in the only classroom and use interferes with any simultaneous classroom activities. The weapon storage vault/armory is too small to hold all Combat Arms required items (these items are currently stored elsewhere on base causing a logistics problem). The storage/administrative space is inadequate for instructor cadre and equipment storage.

### **1.1 Location of the Proposed Action**

Offutt AFB is in eastern Nebraska, in Sarpy County, approximately 10 miles south of the city of Omaha, and approximately 1 mile west of the Missouri River. Reference Attachment on page 17 for a map of the proposed location.

### **1.2 Scope of the Environmental Analysis**

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is intended to assist the AF in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, and 32 CFR Part 989. This EA evaluates the proposed construction of a Combat Arms Support Facility by relying on available environmental information and communication with knowledgeable and affected public agencies.

The EA is used to evaluate and describe the potential consequences of the proposed action on the human, natural, and physical environment. At the same time, it will illustrate how the proposed action would meet all applicable AF objectives and requirements. This EA includes a description of the proposed action and alternatives, a discussion of the affected environment, and expected impacts and mitigation for the physical, biological, economic, and social aspects of the proposed action. When performing the environmental analysis, it is important to identify the environmental issues associated with the proposed action as well as what is required to resolve those issues. Determining the achievement of the proposed action is critical to mission objectives. This information illustrates to the decision-maker what information he should use as the basis for his final decision.

Resources that have potential for impact are considered in more detail in order to provide the Air Force decision maker with sufficient evidence and analysis to determine whether or not additional analysis is required pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.9. The effected environment and the potential environmental consequences relative to specific resources are described in Chapters 3.0 and 4.0, respectively.

### **1.3 Applicable Regulatory Requirements and Coordination**

A brief summary of the laws, regulations, executive orders (EO), federal permits, and licenses that may be applicable to the proposed project are as follows.

#### **1.3.1 Environmental Policy**

The NEPA of 1969 [42 United States Code (USC) 4321 et seq.] establishes a national policy to encourage harmony between man and his environment, and to promote efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and stimulate the health and welfare of man. NEPA procedures ensure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before making decisions and taking actions on federal projects. The CEQ Regulations [40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508] implement the procedural provisions of NEPA.

AFI 32-70 and 32 CFR Part 989 establish the Air Force requirements for compliance with environmental standards and the environmental impact analysis process of NEPA.

EO 11514, *Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality*, as amended by EO 11991, sets policy for directing the federal government in providing leadership for protecting and enhancing the quality of the Nation's environment.

#### **1.3.2 Air Quality**

The Clean Air Act [42 USC 7401 et seq., as amended] sets national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards as a framework for air pollution control. The 1990 amendments to the Clean Air Act specifically define "conformity" for federal projects in relation to a state's implementation plan and require that an agency's action not cause new violations, or increase the severity of existing violations, if any, or delay attainment.

#### **1.3.3 Water Quality**

The Clean Water Act [33 USC 1251 et seq., as amended] establishes federal limits, through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), on the amounts of specific pollutants that are discharged to surface waters in order to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the water. A NPDES permit

would be required for any change from the present parameters in the quality or quantity of non-storm water discharge and/or storm water runoff.

#### 1.3.4 Cultural Resources

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 [16 USC 470 et seq., as amended] requires federal agencies to determine the effect of their actions on cultural resources and take certain steps to ensure these resources are located, identified, evaluated, and protected.

#### 1.3.5 Biological Resources

The Endangered Species Act [16 USC 1531-1543] requires federal agencies to determine the effects of their actions on endangered or threatened species of fish, wildlife, plants, and their critical habitats, and take steps to conserve and protect these species.

EO 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, requires federal agencies to take action to avoid or minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands.

#### 1.3.6 Public Health and Safety/Hazardous Waste

EO 12088, *Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards*, directs federal agencies to comply with state and local laws and regulations concerning air, water, noise pollution, and hazardous materials and substances to the same extent as any private party.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 [42 USC 6901], as amended by the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 [Public Law 98-616], establishes federal programs regulating and managing the treatment, storage, transport, and disposal of non-hazardous solid wastes and hazardous wastes, and regulates underground storage tanks.

#### 1.3.7 Noise

The Noise Control Act of 1972 [Public Law 92-574] establishes a policy "to promote an environment free from noise harmful to health or welfare." Federal agencies comply with state and local requirements for the control and abatement of environmental noise, where applicable.

#### **1.4 Federal and State Permits**

The contractor is responsible for conducting the proposed action and obtaining required federal, state, and local permits. Currently, the state requires a Construction Site Storm Water National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, and de-watering permit(s) for the disposal of groundwater if dewatering is required. Installation permits will be required for all the petroleum containing underground storage tanks. Installation will be by a certified installer and the tanks must be registered and operating permits must be obtained.

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## **2.0 Description of the Proposed Actions and Alternatives**

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The proposed action and construction alternatives, found in this analysis, would meet all AF requirements involving standards. Furthermore, the proposed action and alternatives would comply with all environmental requirements found in Section 1.0. This section includes a history of the process used to formulate the alternatives, a detailed description of the proposed action and alternatives, and a comparison matrix of the environmental impacts of each alternative.

### **2.1 Proposed Action**

All work necessary to construct a Combat Arms support facility to allow for sufficient classroom training, training simulator area, properly ventilated cleaning area, weapons storage vault, instructor administrative space, and restrooms. Construction must comply with ETL 02-11.

### **2.2 Alternative Actions**

An addition to the current facility was considered, but the existing facility is in very poor condition and is considered substandard. The proposed site is ideal for this project because of its close proximity to the firing range where practical applications of the classroom environment can be realized and/or tested.

### **2.3 No-Action Alternative**

The existing range will continue to operate in a very inefficient manner. Storage and personnel will continue to be overcrowded and co-located. Weapon cleaning will continue on classroom tables in a poorly ventilated room. The simulator will stay in the only classroom and interfere with training classes. The weapon/ammo vault will remain too small to store required weapons, ammo, and pilferable equipment. There will continue to be a need to transport materials across the base. Storage/administrative space will remain inadequate.

### **2.4 Summary of Potential Impacts**

Table 2.4 summarizes the potential impact to the environment comparing the proposed action (Construct Combat Arms Support Facility) and the baseline situation (no action). Resources that would experience no change are listed as areas of no impact. The criteria to define the degree of impact are unique to each resource area. Section 4.0 discusses these issues.



**TABLE 2.4**  
**SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

<b>Area of Impact</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>No-Action Alternative</b>
Air Quality	Negligible	No Impact
Water Quality	Negligible	No Impact
Soil Quality	Negligible	No Impact
Noise Quality	Negligible	No Impact
Solid/Hazardous Waste	Negligible	No Impact

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### **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

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This chapter presents information on Offutt AFB followed by a description of the existing environmental and economic resources in each area. Though limited in its impact on the overall environment at Offutt AFB, the proposed action could affect those resources described in each area of this section.

Based upon the nature of the activities that would occur under the proposed action and the no-action alternative, it was determined that the potential exists for those sections listed below to be affected or to create environmental effects.

#### **3.1 Location**

Reference attachment for a copy of the proposed location plan for this project.

#### **3.2 History and Current Mission of Installation**

Acquisition of property started in 1888 for the purpose of constructing an Army post -- named Fort Crook. In 1892, construction of the facilities began. Fort Crook first added an airfield in 1921 -- named Offutt Field. At the beginning of World War II, the Glenn L. Martin Company constructed a plant for the manufacture of bomber aircraft. Offutt AFB became a US Air Force base in January 1948, and became the location of Strategic Air Command (SAC) headquarters later that same year. The AF purchased additional land throughout the 1950s to handle the larger mission and additional personnel. The base currently houses the 55th WG, US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) headquarters, Air Force Weather Agency headquarters, and over 90 other associate or tenant organizations.

#### **3.3 Physical Resources**

##### **3.3.1 Air Quality**

Offutt AFB is located at the southern edge of the Metropolitan Omaha-Council Bluffs Interstate Air Quality Control Region (AQCR). This region is in attainment for all criteria pollutants.

##### **3.3.2 Surface Water and Groundwater**

Offutt AFB is located on the eastern edge of the High Plains regional aquifer system. The topography is considered a part of the dissected Till Plains of the Central Lowland Province. Part of the base lies in the Missouri River floodplain but it is protected from the 100-year flood incident by the Levee identified in the next section. The Levee was adequate for the 1993 floods. The remainder of the base lies within rolling uplands. Surface drainage flows generally to the east and south from the base and ultimately

enters the Missouri River. The western portion of the base does drain into the Papillion Creek, which passes west and south of the base before reaching the Missouri River. The depth of the groundwater varies with the season, elevation, and fluctuation of the Missouri River. Offutt AFB is located approximately one mile to the west of the Missouri River. Reference Section 3.6.2.1 for further analysis on groundwater contamination.

### 3.3.3 Geological Resources

Eastern Sarpy County, where Offutt AFB is located, is underlain by limestone and shales of the Lansing and Kansas City Groups (Missouri Series of the Pennsylvania System; Burchett, et al., 1975; Burchett, 1982). The repetitive cycles of limestone and cyclothems, and the most recent interpretation of their origin is linked to eustatic changes in the sea level that were caused by the waxing and waning of Pennsylvania glaciers on the paleosupercontinent of Gondwana (Heckel, 1985; Boardman and Heckel, 1989). Driller's logs for two deep wells completed at Offutt AFB indicate that 100 to 200 feet of Missourian rocks underlie the base. A sequence of shales with minor limestones (Des Moines Series) are present below the Missourian rocks and are 250 to 300 feet thick (Pipes, 1987).

Offutt AFB is located in the dissected Till Plains section of the Central Lowland province. The Till Plains section of Nebraska is characterized by three principle features: rolling uplands, a broad gently sloping terrace plain, and nearly flat valley lands. The northern half of the main base is considered rolling uplands because they are situated on moderately sloping, rolling hills composed of eroded glacial till. The till in these areas may be veneered by a thin (less than 10 feet) mantle of loess. The remainder of the base, the southeastern portion, is very gently sloping to nearly flat as it lies on an alluvial terrace of the Missouri River. The highest elevation on Offutt AFB is over 1,150 feet and the lowest is less than 960 feet in the southeastern corner near the Missouri River. The facilities in the southeastern corner are elevated above the 100-year flood incident level of 968.8 feet and after 1985 were also protected by the R-613 Missouri River Levee.

### 3.3.4 Soil and Land Use

Various types of soil exist on base. These mainly consist of loess, silty and clayey colluvium, and silty, clayey and sandy alluvium. The permeability is considered moderate ranging between 0.6 to 2.0 in/hr. The potential for soil erosion and sediment transport has been determined to be greatest in upland areas, and during spring and early summer when vegetative cover is least. The total area affected by the proposed action is within the Offutt AFB area/secured location portion of the base.

### 3.3.5 Noise

Sounds that disrupt normal activities or otherwise diminish the quality of the environment are designated as noise. Noise can be stationary, transient, intermittent or continuous. Community response to noise is based on a subjective assessment of the daily noise environment. Factors that affect this subjective assessment include the noise levels of individual events, the number of events per day, and the time of day at which the events occur.

The Federal Interagency Committee on Urban Noise (FICUN) has delineated several basic types of land use for areas around airfields that are based on average noise levels and aircraft accident potential. The FICUN suggests that either restrictions or caution be exercised concerning use of land in these areas. Those restrictions and recommendations are contained in Offutt's Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) Report. The delineation of the compatible land use zones is intended to assist local planning boards in minimizing noise impacts to the local populace. Accident and noise potential is not an issue and will be eliminated from further discussion.

### 3.3.6 Climatic Conditions

The climate at Offutt AFB is continental: characterized by cold winters, hot summers, and moderate rainfall. Based on 30 years of temperature data, the average daily maximum temperatures range from 30 degrees F in January to 85.7 degrees F in July (National Weather Service, 1991). Maximum temperatures fluctuate daily.

Precipitation occurs primarily as slow, steady rain during spring; scattered thunderstorms (some severe and producing tornadoes) during late spring and summer; and snow and freezing rain during the winter. The mean annual precipitation at Offutt AFB from 1948 to 1990 was 31.4 inches, with about 75 percent of the annual precipitation falling between April and September.

Prevailing winds in the area are generally from the northwest and southeast. Wind speeds vary from gentle breezes to gusts of 60 to 80 miles per hour near severe thunderstorms (Soil Conservation Service, 1975). Calm conditions may exist throughout the year and occur from 2 to 5 percent of the time.

Based on moderate humidity and moderate winds, the estimated evapotranspiration for the Omaha area is 26.3 inches per year. The annual difference between average annual precipitation and estimated evapotranspiration is about 5.1 inches.

## 3.4 Cultural Resources

Archeological, historic, paleontological, and Native American resources are the four categories of cultural resources. These resources are those items, places or events

considered important to a culture or community for reasons of history, tradition, religion, or science.

Native Americans who subsisted on wild game, fish, and native fruits inhabited the Offutt AFB area of Sarpy County. Early occupants were Mandan and lived in earth lodges on the top of the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River. At the time settlers of European extraction first visited, the Omaha tribe occupied the region. The first white settlement in the State was in nearby Bellevue where a French fur trader named Lucian Fontenelle established a trading post.

Offutt AFB has a historic district comprised of the old brick Fort Crook officer and enlisted quarters, guard house, blacksmith shop, fire station, and parade ground. Other facilities have been identified for nomination due to their historic or cold war significance. The area of the proposed project was reviewed for historic significance in a study accomplished through the National Park Service. Nothing of historic or cold war interest was noted in the area of the proposed project. The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has accepted this documentation so there are no restrictions on modification of the area.

The National Park Service and State Historic Preservation Office have concurred that an archeological survey is not warranted because of the extensive disturbance of soil on Offutt AFB.

### **3.5 Biological Resources**

The area around and encompassing Offutt AFB is the western edge of the Eastern Deciduous Forest and borders on the ecotone that separates the Eastern Deciduous Forest from the Tall and Mid Grass Prairies. Early photos of the Offutt AFB area indicate that it was grassland consisting of native grasses such as big and little bluestem, switchgrass, and blue grama. The lower areas contained native trees such as cottonwood and willow. Today, virtually every square foot of the base has been disturbed.

The only federally listed threatened and endangered birds found near Offutt AFB are the Eskimo Curlew, Whooping Crane, Interior Least Tern, Bald Eagle, Piping Plover, and Mountain Plover. Some of these birds' migration routes pass close to or over Offutt, others have no distinct route and have the potential to occur nearly anywhere in Nebraska, and on occasion may fly over Offutt AFB. The Interior Least Tern, Bald Eagle, and Piping Plover may nest in the vicinity of Offutt AFB, however, Offutt AFB proper has no nesting habitat attractive to these species.

In accordance with a review by the Nebraska Games and Parks Commission, there are no records of state or federal threatened or endangered species (mammals, fish, insects, reptiles, and plants) on or in the immediate vicinity of the base. The Pallid Sturgeon is known to exist in the nearby Missouri River. Additional research shows that no suitable habit is available for these threatened or endangered species at Offutt AFB.



There are no wetlands located within the fenced area of the main base. The Army Corps of Engineers designated Offutt's lake as Waters of the United States. The lake was created in the middle 1950s by dredging alluvial material using a barge and suction dredge to provide fill material to extend the active runway. Other wetland areas exist on Air Force property but outside the security fence. Relative to the proposed project, the Corps of Engineers was consulted and determined that no wetlands would be impacted by the proposed action.

### **3.6 Hazardous Materials/Waste Management**

Any hazardous materials used during the construction will be handled in accordance with all applicable federal, state and Offutt AFB regulations. All special wastes generated by the contractor will be disposed of in accordance with the State of Nebraska and Offutt AFB regulations/requirements. All hazardous waste generated will be disposed of by Offutt AFB through the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) to ensure compliance with federal and state requirements.

Offutt AFB maintains a Facility Response Plan, and a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Plan, prepared in accordance with Air Force Manual 32-4013, *Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Guide*. These plans also comply with AFI 10-2501, *Full Spectrum Threat Response (FSTR) Planning and Operations*.

### **3.7 Transportation**

Offutt AFB is served primarily by Highway 75, and can be reached via Highway 370, Fort Crook Road, and Capehart Road. During the construction, a slight increase in truck traffic should be expected. Though contract workers and equipment would use the transportation system, the majority would be local and this activity is not expected to affect the overall traffic patterns in the area. Minimal traffic impacts are expected on the highways and major thoroughfares in and around Offutt AFB.

### **3.8 Socioeconomics**

Offutt AFB is located in Sarpy County, NE. According to the US Census Bureau, Sarpy County has a population of 122,495 people, and a median income of \$38,315. Implementation of the proposed project may provide short term employment for construction workers and benefits to businesses that supply construction materials, but the long term effects would be negligible. In addition, there are no environmental justice issues associated with the proposed action.

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## **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

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The purpose of an EA is to identify the potential impacts on the human environment. The analysis in this EA has focused on identifying impacts as negligible, adverse or beneficial. To determine possible environmental effects, the major element of the proposed action was identified and evaluated. The effects that such activity could cause were identified in the various resource areas and a determination made as to the type of effect.

Identifying environmental effects in this chapter include consideration of both the context and the severity of the impact. The criteria used to differentiate between negligible and adverse impact are discussed, with distinctions made between short-term and long-term impacts. A negligible impact is defined as an unlikely occurrence and/or inconsequential effect. An adverse impact represents potential negative effects to the environmental resources. A beneficial impact can result if the current condition is improved or an undesirable effect is lessened. A determination of no impact is made when resources should not be affected by an action.

Under either of the two actions (proposed and no-action), there would be no effect to the cultural and biological resources. Under normal operating circumstances, there would be no issues involving cultural and biological resources. With this, further discussion of cultural and biological resources is not warranted.

### **4.1 Proposed Action**

#### **4.1.1 Air**

The proposed action would cause a short term, minimal increase in air emissions. The increase would be in particulate matter (PM-10) from construction site dust and motor vehicle/equipment emissions (CO, NO<sub>2</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>). However, the duration of construction coupled with the limited amount of construction equipment would produce a negligible impact on the air quality of Offutt AFB and the local area. Additionally, standard dust control measures (watering) would be employed to control PM-10 release. Offutt AFB is in an area of attainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards and a conformity determination is not required.

#### **4.1.2 Water**

There would be a possibility of construction activities affecting the quality of storm water. The contractor would be required to abide by the "Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan" and all associated NPDES requirements/permits for a construction site. The plan dictates what measures the contractor must take to prevent the discharge of pollutants in construction site runoff to the storm sewer system.

Contaminated groundwater (encountered during de-watering if needed) may be discharged to the storm sewer with an appropriate discharge permit from the NDEQ, depending on concentration levels. If concentration levels are found to be above the maximum levels allowed by the permit, the contaminated groundwater may still be discharged to the sanitary sewer for treatment. Overall, there would be a negligible effect on water quality going to the sanitary or storm sewer systems for Offutt AFB.

(Note: The proposed site is located near, but not over a plume of contaminated groundwater which has been identified as part of Offutt's Environmental Restoration Program. There is no evidence that the plume of contamination has migrated to the proposed construction site; however a construction waiver has been submitted to permit excavation/project continuance.)

#### 4.1.3 Soil

Construction activities at the proposed site could expose soil to possible erosion. The contractor would employ preventive measures to limit the impact of erosion to exposed soils – as required by the Offutt AFB Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. Any contaminated soil would have to be disposed of in a landfill capable of receiving Nebraska special wastes, or be disposed of as hazardous waste as determined by the appropriate tests. (Note: The footnote listed above in Para 4.1.2 is applicable here as well.)

#### 4.1.4 Noise

The proposed action would cause a localized increase in noise. At the construction site, noise generated from equipment can produce localized noise events of 100 decibels or higher. However, these events would be of limited duration and would occur during daylight hours. Given the limited duration and localized nature, the increase in cumulative noise for the base is negligible.

#### 4.1.5 Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste

Construction activities would cause a short-term generation of solid waste, construction debris, and hazardous materials such as paints and adhesives. The contractor would be required to abide by Offutt's Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Management Plans, which dictates what measures must be taken to prevent improper disposal of wastes.

### 4.2 No-Action Alternative

#### 4.2.1 Air

The no-action alternative would not cause any short or long term increase in air emissions.



#### 4.2.2 Water

Under this action, there would not be an effect to either groundwater or storm water.

#### 4.2.3 Soil

Under this action, there would be no change to current practices, therefore no impact on soil conditions.

#### 4.2.4 Noise

The no-action alternative would not cause any type of increase in noise.

#### 4.2.5 Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste

The no-action alternative would not cause any short or long-term impact in waste generation.

### 4.3 Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project is not anticipated to create any impacts that are due to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. Hazardous materials/waste will not be generated by this project, however cleaning solvents (used for cleaning weapons) will be properly stored and disposed of in accordance with an approved HAZCOM Plan. As mentioned before, the proposed site is located near but not over a plume of contaminated groundwater which has been identified as part of Offutt's Environmental Restoration Program. There is no evidence that the plume of contamination has migrated to the proposed construction site; however a construction waiver has been submitted to permit excavation/project continuance. The following projects: AAFES Mini-Mall, Construct New Control Tower, Runway Repair, SAC Federal Credit Union, Air Force Weather Agency Headquarters Facility and Air Force Exchange Service Shopping Center) were all recently evaluated for environmental consequences and resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSIs). This project taken in concert with the aforementioned projects will not create any undue impacts due to construction activities on Offutt AFB. As such, the Cumulative Impacts are negligible.

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## **5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Schmidt, Thomas L. and Mooter, David P., Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife, 1987. Community Forestry Master Plan – Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

US Air Force, October 1992. Air Installation Compatible Use Zone – Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

US Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha District, September 1983. Aerial Photography and Maps of the Missouri River.

US Department of Agriculture – Soil Conservation Department, 1975. Soil Surveys of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, Nebraska.

US Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 1997. 1997 and 1993 Census of Housing and State/County Profiles.

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## **6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS**

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Environmental Management Flight, Offutt Air Force Base

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## **7.0 LIST OF AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED**

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Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

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Chief, Environmental Management Flight

Mr. Phil Cork  
Chief, Environmental Restoration Program Element

Ms. Melissa Kurtz  
Engineering Programming Element

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## **APPENDIX A – INTERAGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING (IICEP)**

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This appendix contains the Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP) request letter sent to federal, state and local agencies in accordance with EO 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*. Attached to the letter will be a description of the proposed action and alternatives for the agencies' review and comment. The following page lists the agencies included in the IICEP.

## IICEP ADDRESSEE LIST

Nebraska Department of  
Environmental Quality  
ATTN: Joe Francis  
1200 N Street  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68508-8922

55<sup>th</sup> WG/PA  
906 SAC Blvd, Suite 1  
Offutt AFB, NE 68113-3206

Army Corps of Engineers  
Omaha District, Planning Division  
ATTN: Candace Gorton, Chief  
Environmental, Economics, & Cultural  
Resources Section  
215 North 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-4978

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency  
ATTN: Alene Ramsey  
2222 Cuming Street  
Omaha, NE 68102-4328

U.S. EPA (Region 7)  
ATTN: NEPA Division  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, KS 66101

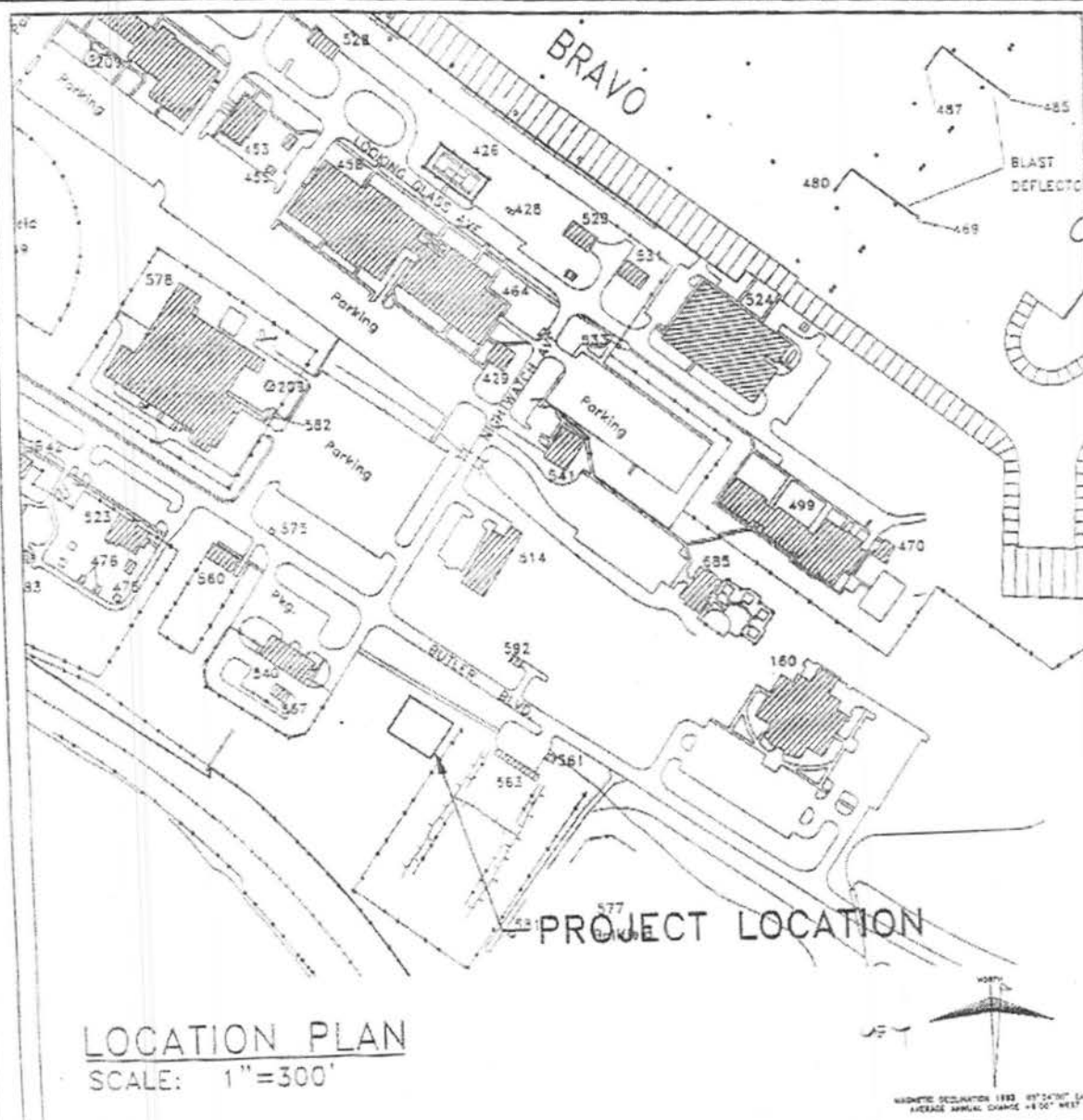
City of Omaha  
Planning Department  
ATTN: Robert Peters  
Omaha/Douglas Civic Center  
1819 Farnam Street, Suite 1111  
Omaha, NE 68183-0110

City of Bellevue  
Planning Department  
210 W. Mission Ave  
Bellevue, NE 68123

1. COMPONENT AF(ACC)	FY 2003 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DATA	2. DATE
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3. INSTALLATION AND LOCATION OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA
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4. PROJECT TITLE CONSTRUCT COMBAT ARMS SUPPORT FAC	5. PROJECT NUMBER SGBP010041
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APPROVED CHAIRMAN FB                      DATE:                     

DD FORM 1291-